

**Budget Council Minutes**  
**Tuesday, August 26, 2014**

Terry Leist  
John Cowles  
Steve Luft  
Joel Schumacher

Tricia Cook  
Chris Fastnow  
Martha Potvin  
Jerry Sheehan

David Court  
Chris Kearns  
Doralyn Rossmann  
Linda Young

*Guests:*  
*Kathy Attebury, Megan Bergstedt, Heidi Gagnon, Bob Mokwa, MacKenzie Seeley*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Terry Leist.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 25, 2014 meeting were approved.

III. Information/ Announcements/ Updates

Introduction of New Members

- Jerry Sheehan, Chris Kearns and John Cowles were introduced as new members.

Membership Responsibilities

- It was suggested that the Council break into work groups when appropriate
- Members are encouraged to “leave your hat at the door” and make decisions which are in the best interest of MSU as a whole.

IV. Current Business

FY 15 Goals

- There was agreement that the training be focused on new members outside of the large work group. Other members wishing for a refresher would be welcome to attend the training.
- Work the training to tailor it to the group and the individual needs – the Budget Office offered to train individuals one-on-one.

Sometimes individuals get frustrated with the budget and think that “opening the books” will answer all their questions. In reality, it is lack of resources. It was suggested that having an FAQ session with campus leaders would be very informative to educate them on the different "colors of money".

- Kathy Attebury reported that the Budget Office has a "Did you know...?" item on their task list. This might help campus faculty and staff to better understand and find answers to their questions. The draft document will be shared with Budget Council for their input.

### Collaboration with Planning Council

- The plan is to have at least one joint meeting this fall with the Planning Council. Because our accreditation requires us to align with the University's strategic plan with the budget, it will be important that the Budget Council collaborates with the Planning Council. The accreditation report will be available soon for public viewing.

### SIP Investments

- Kathy Attebury reported that assessment reports on previous allocations is currently underway. Once the data is distributed to the Council, the voting members would vote using an assessment rubric to determine whether future funding is recommended. The Council would like to see the funding amounts and a link to the original proposal as part of the matrix that they receive. Linda Young asked for an explanation of what happens to the remaining funds when proposals aren't approved. It was explained that it goes back into the University pool of money.

Terry Leist- the Budget Council needs to decide which budget decisions it should be involved in, what level, etc. It is not known yet what the available budget dollars will be but the Council will need to be conservative to ensure adequate funding.

### Budget Model

Terry Leist would like the Budget Council to help create a model for budgeting at the University. Our existing model is primarily based on a historical funding model and has not typically been a strategic funding model.

### Suggestions and Questions included:

- A lot of the budgeting doesn't have involvement from the Cabinet or leadership teams
- Budget Council should set guidance and help direct monies to strategic needs
- We should develop a review process at the Dean/Director level, make any adjustments
- The desire is for more thought to be put into the process
- What data should be used to make decisions?
- Should net tuition be dedicated to instruction and academic support?
- Which fund types should be included in a model?
- What type of cost/benefit analysis would be used?
- How often should budgets be reviewed?
- Consider and focus on outcomes

### Elements to consider in a Funding Model

- Tuition Distributions
- Cost/ Activity Drivers
- Simple design

### Performance Funding

\$2.3 M in funding was allocated to MSU. Student Success and Academic Affairs received the majority of the funding. The long-term funding discussions are now occurring. Bob Mokwa suggested that getting input from the Budget Council will be a good idea.

### Next steps

Strategic Investment Proposal Assessments are due Friday, August 29

- The Budget Office will be able to compile the data and bring it to the September meeting for discussion by the Council.

*The next meeting is scheduled for September 23, 3:30 – 4:30 pm.*